transmit a second tripping signal to the short-circuit current limiter in the event of large overcurrents.

5. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the short-circuit current limiter is a power breaker.

6. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the short-circuit current limiter is a PTC thermistor.

9. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed claim in 1, wherein the evaluation device is designed for receiving and evaluating signals from a first current sensor, which detects the current through the current path, and from a second current sensor, which detects a current through a second current path, by comparing them with one another and opening the microrelay switch in response to a result of the evaluation.

10. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the current sensor is a total current sensor which detects a total current through the current path and through at least one second adjacent current path, and the evaluation device is designed for receiving and evaluating a signal from the total current sensor and for opening the microrelay switch in response to that signal.

11. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one current sensor is part of the switching device and is in the form of a Hall sensor.

12. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microrelay switch, the evaluation device and, possibly, the Hall sensor or sensors are each integrated as chips on a circuit board.

13. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microrelay switch and the evaluation device are integrated on one chip.

14. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the evaluation device and the Hall sensor or sensors are integrated on a chip.

15. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microrelay switch, the evaluation device and the Hall sensor or sensors are integrated on one chip.

16. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electronic response monitoring device is integrated, with the microrelay switch, on one chip.

17. (Amended) The electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a timer circuit is integrated, with the microrelay switch, on one chip.

18. (Amended) An electric motor switching and protection system having an electrical switching device as claimed in claim 1.--